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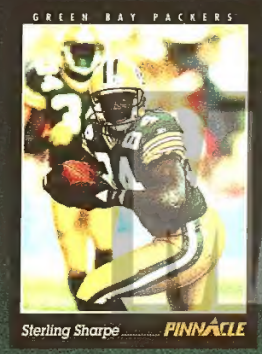

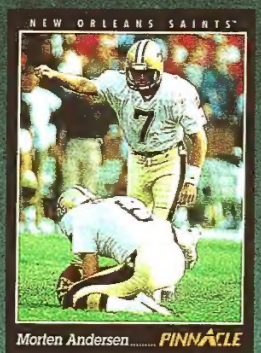

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Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

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SCRIPT	PENCILER	INKER	LETTERS	COLOR	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF

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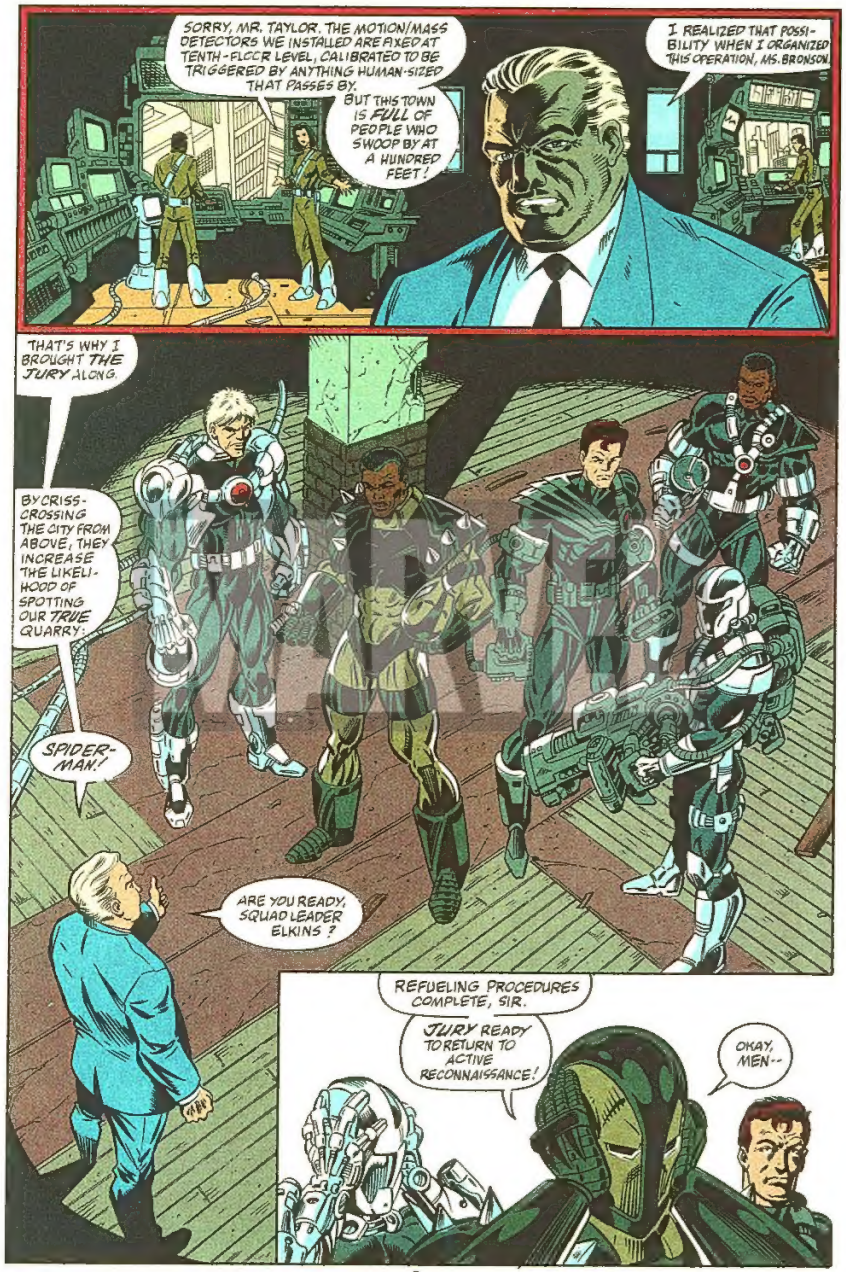

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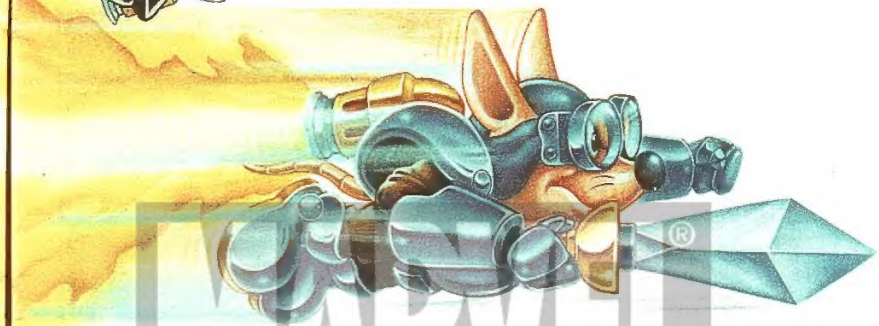

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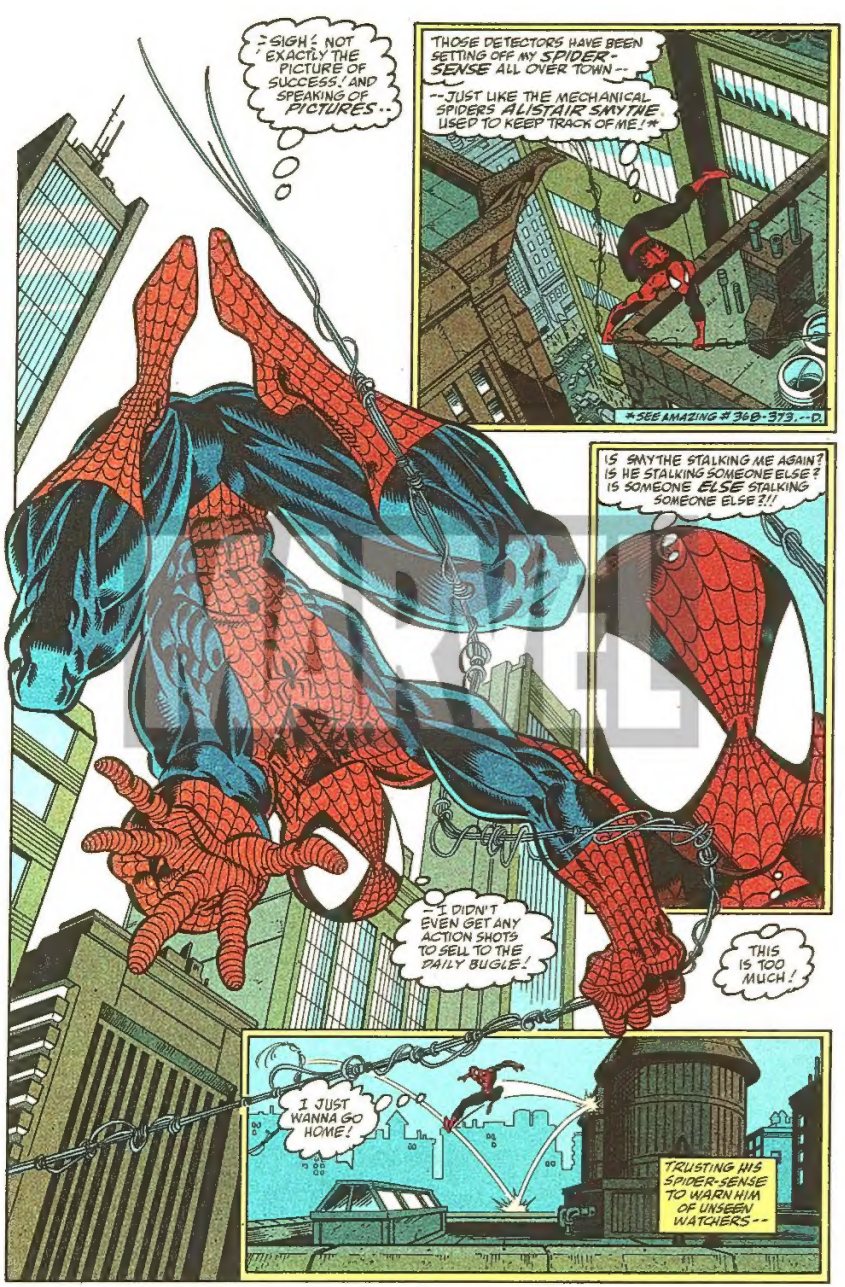

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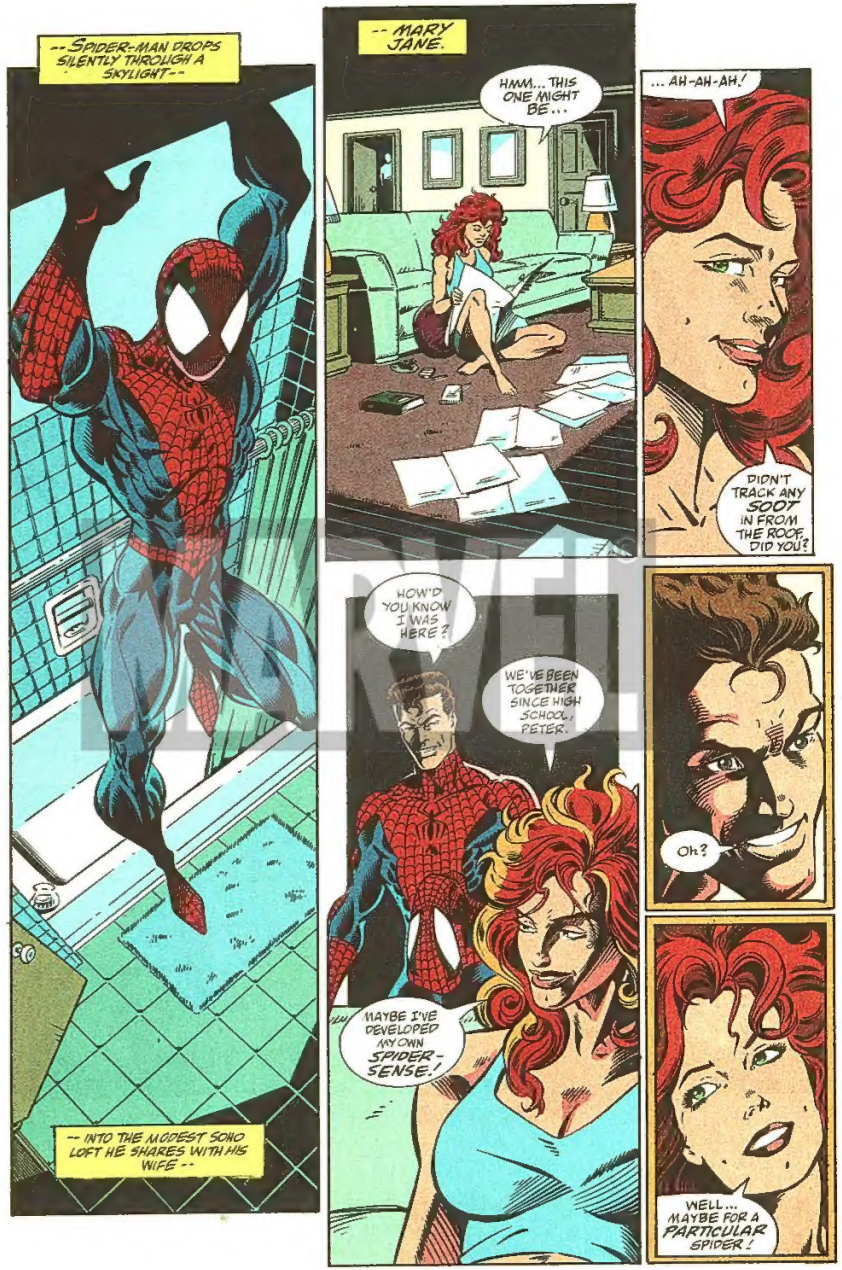

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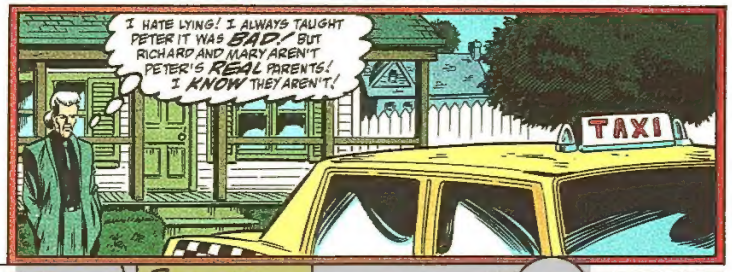

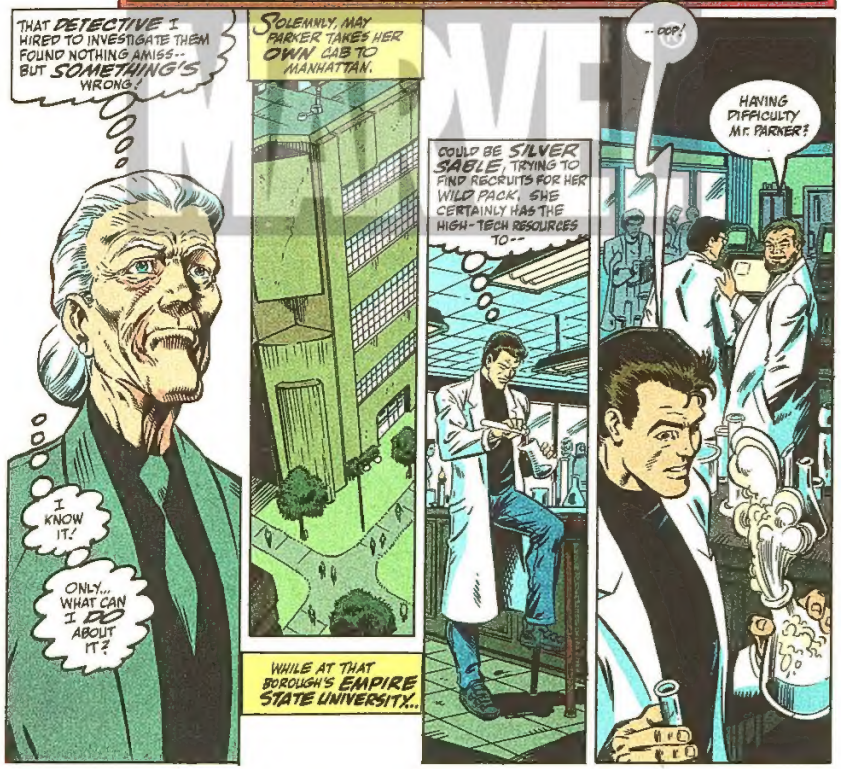

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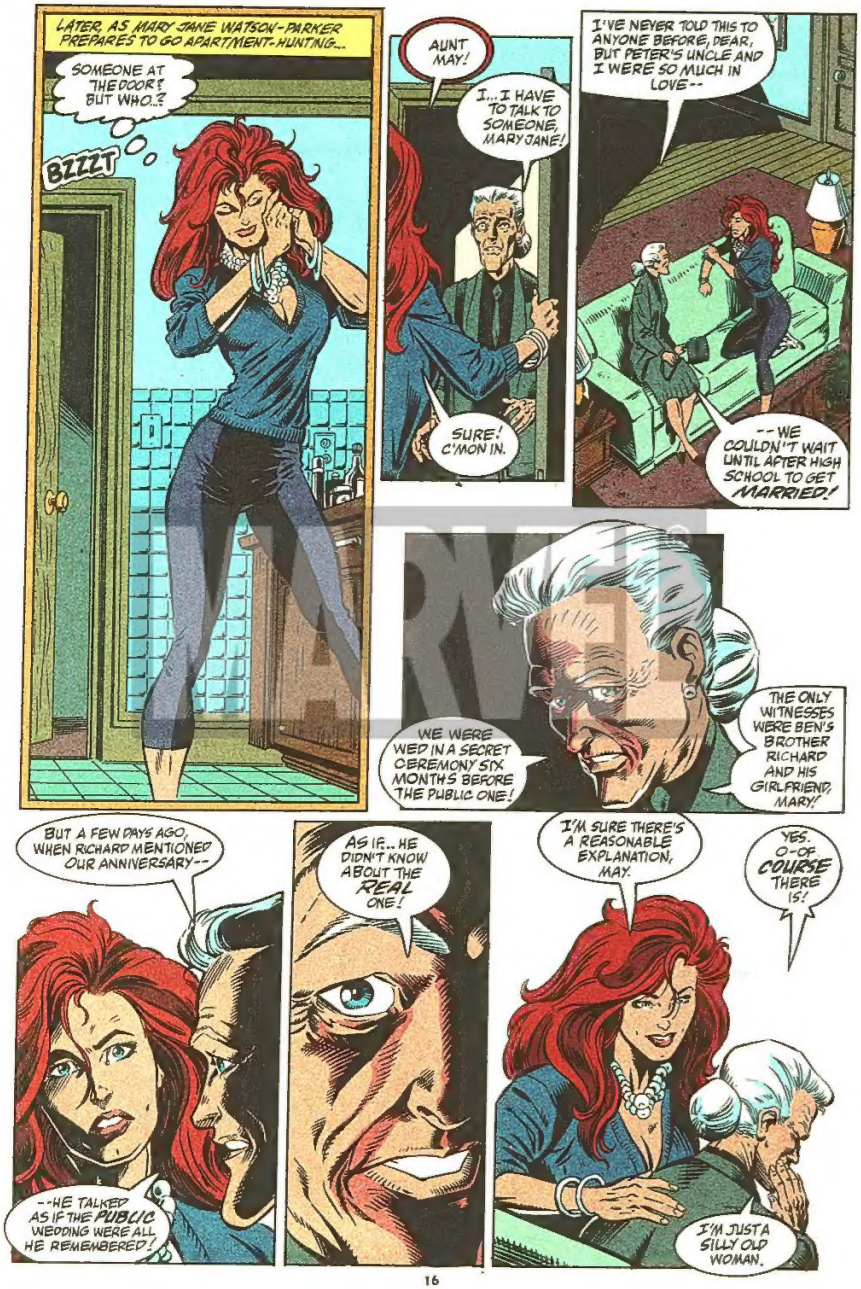

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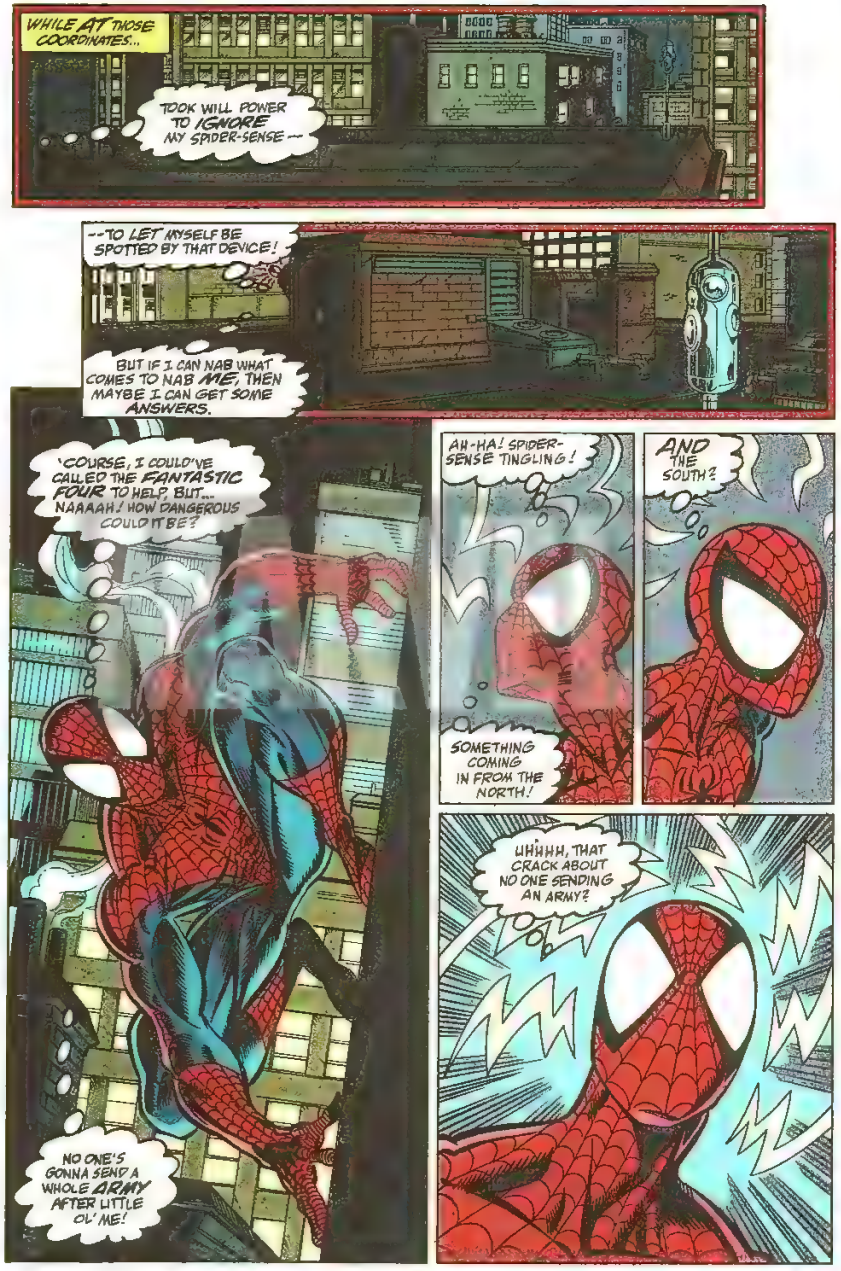

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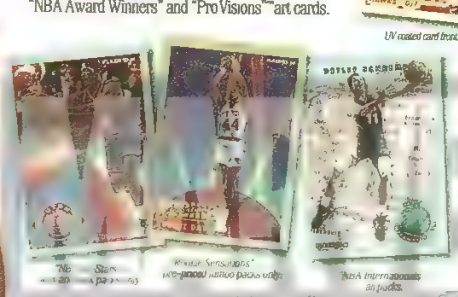

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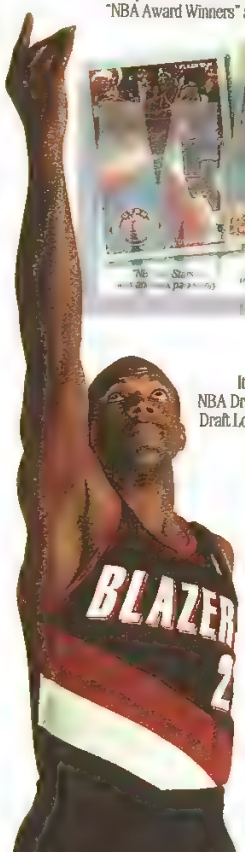

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TOM TALKS

People often accuse Marvel of producing too many comic books. They say that no one can afford all our terrific titles.

I guess that's a compliment. After all, no one cares about missing comics they don't enjoy.

Unfortunately, these complaints have some validity, and it's high time I explained the method to our madness. We love each and every one of you. Without our loyal fans, Marvel Comics couldn't exist. We produce the very best comics we can because we know that's the secret to entertaining you. We also know that your tastes are always changing, and that you're always looking for something new.

That's why we're constantly experimenting with unusual storylines, offbeat concepts, and wild new directions for our established titles ... as well as continually offering you a selection of all-new, all-different comic books.

I don't want you to think that we'd ever intentionally put quantity over quality. Unfortunately, not every title comes out as well as envisioned. While we always have our share of major blockbusters, some of these new titles only appeal to a select audience. Others fail to appeal to anyone. Some work. Some don't. That's what happens when you experiment as often as we do.

We also get a real kick out of giving new writers and artists a chance to strut their stuff. Major talents like **Mark Bagley, Ron Lim** and **John Romita, Jr.** don't suddenly explode on the scene. They develop over a period of years, involving constant hard work. If our comics line wasn't so big, new talent would never have an opportunity of seeing print.

Sure, I guess we could always play it safe. We could publish proven concepts ... with popular characters ... by top creators. Every title would be a blockbuster, and we'd never have a failure.

But ... what's the fun in that?!

Thanks for being there,

Tom D

It was the heat wave of the century!

Well, not really, but after overhyping the blizzard of the century a few months back, we felt obligated to do likewise for this past summer's heat blast. The heat wave kicked off on the East Coast in June, with an intensity hotter than all three Infinity crossovers put together! At one point, the heat was so intense, even Iceman worked up a sweat!

Of course, while half the country was melting, the other half was drowning under the most devastating floods since Thor and Storm got together for a rain dance! We asked our frying freelancers how they managed to beat the heat this summer. Here's what they had to say.

Penciler/inker **John Czop,** currently sticking to your walls in the all-new SPIDER-WOMAN limited series, believes that if an artist can't stand the heat, he should get out of the studio. Said John, "I went to my girlfriend's house to work, because she's got air-conditioning!"

Other artists never had to set foot outdoors. SPIDER-MAN 2099's inker, **Al Williamson,** said "I met my deadlines in an air-conditioned studio!" SECRET DEFENDERS penciler **Tom Grindberg** also stayed safely indoors, "watching my grass turn a pretty crispy shade of brown!" Tom also let slip the secret that he will soon be permanently taking over the penciling chores of WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH!

Glynis Oliver, who colors X FACTOR, said her solution to the summer swelter was to go jump in a lake! Glynis noted that "All the fans in town sold out! You couldn't buy a fan!" Fortunately here at Marvel, we don't have to buy our fans — we've got enough fans of our comics to keep us cool!

Mike Gustovich, the penciler/inker of the smash AVENGERS limited series, THE TERMINATRIX OBJECTIVE, found the key to staying cool was dressing down. Said Mike, "I drew mostly naked!"

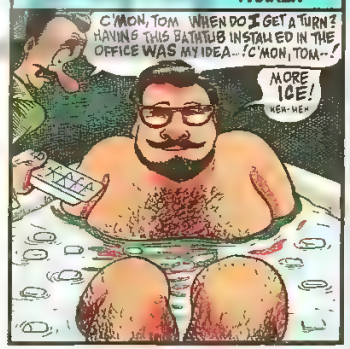
Other artists discovered their own creative concepts in coolness. Inker **Keith Williams** said "I sat on a very large ice cube inking the very hot WARLOCK CHRONICLES book!" Penciler **Flint Henry,** who makes LAW DOG the hottest dog at Marvel, combined the two above answers, noting, "I worked in the buff on a giant block of ice sculpted to look like Modok!" (That Flint really needs to get out more ...!)

PUNISHER penciler **Hoang Nguyen** dodged the heat as easily as Frank Castle dodges bullets. As Hoang put it, "I stayed inside most of the time, trying to cool off with an iced tea!" BIKER MICE FROM MARS penciler **Rurik Tyler** seems to have overheated, as he queried, "Beat the heat? Is that a new character?"

On the flip side of the country, we found AMAZING SPIDER-MAN inker **Randy Emberlin,** who was deluged with so much rain this past summer, he qualifies for citizenship in Atlantis! Randy commented, "It was a cold summer! We put the air conditioner in in May, and we didn't use it but once! I think we had maybe one week of sun!"

Just goes to show you that no matter where you live, there's always someone out there with worse weather than you! Finally we have BARBIE writer **Lisa Trusiani** who offered her own unique solution as to how to beat the heat: "With a stick!" And on that note, we remind you that no matter how hot it gets, Marvel Comics do not melt — not in your mouth, and not in your hands!

THE BULL'S EYE by RICK PARKER



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- ☐ **RAVAGE 2099 #12:** Guess who can transform into a crazed beast! No, it's not Tom DeFalco!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #215:** Conan must break the **Living Wind!**
- ☐ **SECRET DEFENDERS #9:** With War Machine, Thunderstrike, and **Silver Surfer!**
- ☐ **SILVER SABLE #18:** That slippery symbiote stops by — **Venom!**
- ☐ **SLEEPWALKER #30:** Just like Norman Bates **Payko** returns!
- ☐ **TERRARISTS #1 OF 4:** Hit hard! Hit fast! Hit Heavy!
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- ☐ **X-MEN ADVENTURES #13: Bishop** is back ... in time!

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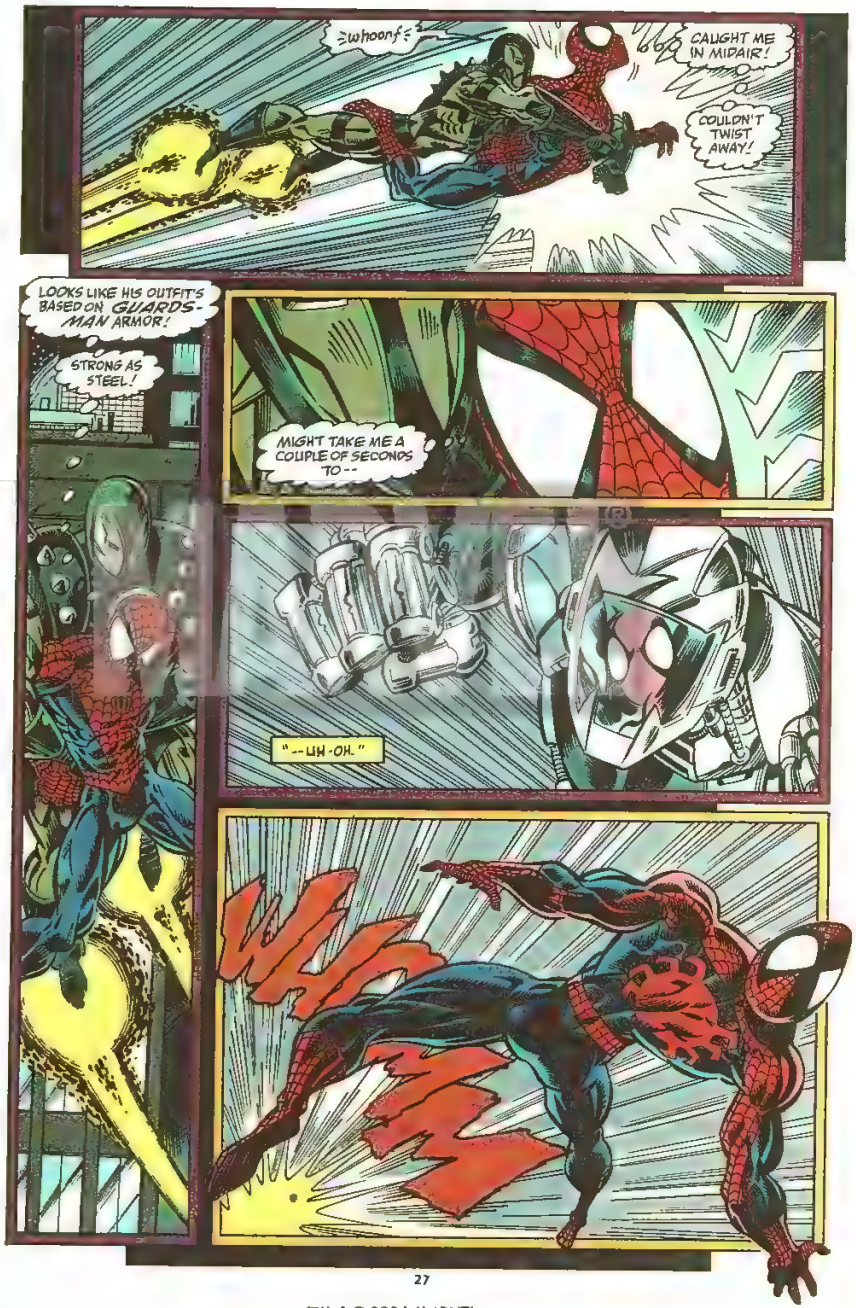

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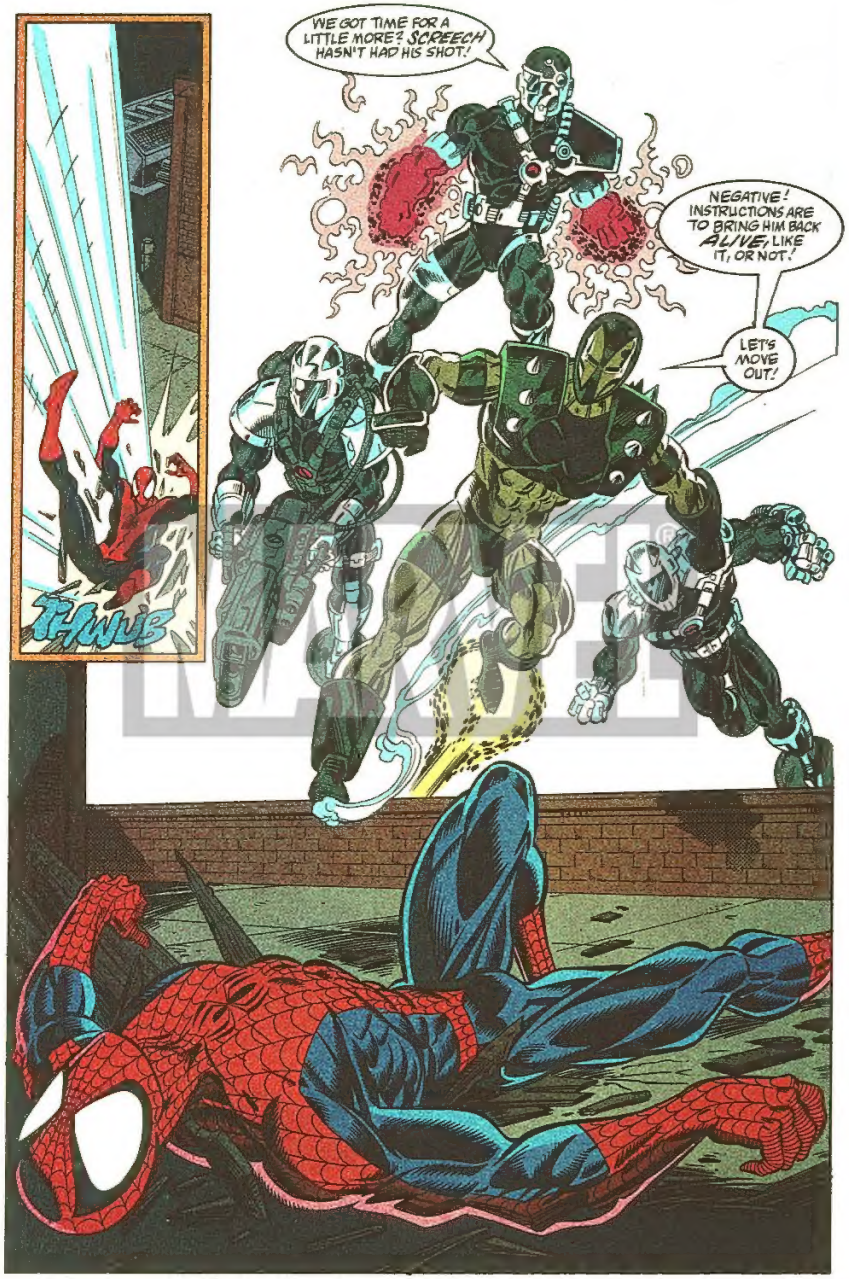

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